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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 1, 2019

From the Transitional Conference Minister

Grace to you and peace! Epiphany is the season in which we celebrate Jesus as the light to the world. We also celebrate the many ways in which God is active and continues to bring light in the midst of our dark days.

Sometimes it is a challenge to see the light of love and hope amid the violence, uncertainty, and brokenness of our world. However, as Christians – both as individuals and congregations – we are called to be those who seek to discover the glimpses of the present light of Christ. We are called to help others see the light by lifting up where we see hope and love, and the little changes that are making a difference. But we are also called to allow God's light to be seen and reflected through who we are and what we do.

Therefore, the season of Epiphany moves us well into a new calendar year. What commitments might we make for the coming year that will help us to see, lift up, and reflect the light and love of God in our communities and the world? The past may have informed who we are, but the present is here and our hopes for the future are yet to be articulated and realized.

As I begin to serve as your Transitional Conference Minister, one of my first goals is to learn how each of you are those "lights" within the world. As a Conference, we are diverse in geography, setting, historical foundations, size, focus of mission, etc. But each of you – clergy, church leaders, and congregations – is vital to the mission of living the gospel in all of its aspects: from the small acts of kindness to the fight for social justice.

My initial focus will be spent making connections with clergy, congregations, and Conference committees. I will benefit from your assistance: if there is a gathering of clergy, please let me know; if there is a

special occasion in your congregation, please let me know. Feel free to contact me via phone (404-615-2492) or email (cburch@secucc.org). It is together that we will be strengthened and able to be most effective as we seek to live as faithful followers of Christ and discern how we might support one another in being part of God's mission in our midst. I am excited to discover with you God's call for the Southeast Conference!

May the year ahead bring blessings and hope for each of you!
Char Burch

Winter 2019 Grant Applications Open Soon

Greetings and Happy new year to all. We really appreciate all the ways you supported this conference in 2018 and look forward to your continued support in 2019.

We will begin accepting applications on January 17, 2019 for Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives grants. This cycle will end March 7, 2019.



Transforming Churches • Transforming Lives
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

There are a few steps to keep in mind before applying:

- If you **have been awarded a grant in the past**, please make sure your "Project Evaluation Form" has been completed and submitted. This form can be [found on our website](#). This is necessary and needed before your application can be considered.
- Please read and [follow the guidelines](#) (these can be found on the application form).
- **A detailed budget** should be submitted with the application. This is most important.
- If at all possible, please submit your application **before the deadline date**. That allows for any questions or concerns to be addressed prior to the deadline.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

We would like to make 2019 our best year yet and we appreciate your support in all the ways that you bless this conference.

Please, invite me to your church. I would love to share with you personally all the ways that your OCWM dollars support so many causes. I look forward to visiting and worshiping with all of you in 2019.

Blessings as we journey together,

Min. Carrole Moss
Generosity Coordinator
860-655-6254
cmoss@secucc.org

News from the Conference Office



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2019. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. (The entire 2019 prayer list will be available soon.)

Week of January 7

- Beloved Community Church; Birmingham, Alabama
- Jane Acuff
- Ginnie Ferrell
- Samantha Snellgrove
- Kate Stulce

Week of January 15

- Bethany Congregational UCC; Thomasville, Georgia
- Donna Farrar
- Leo Maley
- Dale Marshall
- Kim Sorrells

Churches in Transition: United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; Emmanuel, Greenville SC; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Peace Church, Clemson SC.

Celebrating Two Ordinations

The Conference, acting as an Association, had the honor and privilege to ordain our two newest members of the clergy: Mi Young "Kriss" Choi and Mercy Packer-Monroe. Kriss was ordained on November 25 at Open Community UCC in Duluth, GA. Mercy was ordained on December 2 at Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta. Both Kriss and Mercy serve as chaplains.



Mandatory Annual Authorized Minister Review

As we begin 2019 it is time for the **Yearly Information Review for All Authorized Ministers** in the Southeast Conference. The information

review is a way for the Commission on Ministry, on behalf of the Southeast Conference, to find out what you have been doing this year in your ministry and find out how they can support you in the year to come.

The form will only take a couple of minutes to complete, and it will help the Conference make sure we have correct contact information and maintain our Covenant with each of the Ministers within the Southeast Conference.

You can either [fill out the form online here](#) or you can [download and print the form here](#) and mail it to the Southeast Conference, PO Box 1950, Decatur GA 30031.

Please have your Information Review to the Southeast Conference by February 28, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Heather Fosburgh at hfosburgh@secucc.org or 404-719-6572.

MID/PIE Retreat: January 18 & 19 in Atlanta

Calling all MIDs (Members in Discernment) and PIEs (Person's in Exploration) and all interested in pursuing ministry in the United Church of Christ. You are invited to the MID retreat January 18 and 19 in Atlanta.

The Retreat will begin at noon on the 18th and will end after lunch on the 19th. There are two housing options: one is a hotel for which participants will pay themselves, with the other option of being hosted by someone in Atlanta. The cost of the retreat is \$45 and will include three meals. Please register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/x00Qzlf3BcSN3D5o2>.

If you have any question, please contact Rev. Heather Fosburgh at hfosburgh@secucc.org or 404-719-6572.

News from the Wider Church

Back Bay Mission Christmas Food Baskets

Back Bay Mission handed out 135 Christmas Food Baskets and 75 Christmas Backpacks this Christmas Season. Laundry Baskets overflowing with Christmas Day goodies were handed to housed families in need along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. These families received the gift of providing a special Christmas day full of delicious food and wonderful memories. Each

basket contained everything for a pancake breakfast with syrup and a Christmas Turkey Dinner with all of the fixings. The Christmas Backpacks were handed out to Back Bay Mission's homeless guests. Their backpacks included hand warmers, gloves, scarves, socks, Christmas Canned Ham, and Christmas Cookies made from by the BBM staff. Everyone likes to be remembered and shown love

News from Our Local Congregations

Another Side to the Story

The congregation at Pleasant Hill Community Church presented a Christmas Eve play entitled "Another Side to the Story," an original script by award-winning British playwright Clare Summerskill. The presentation featured the holy refugee family, King Herod the Orange, King Herod's Assistant who tweeted the King's executive orders, three very, very wise people (a rabbi, an imam, and a holistic psychotherapist), and lowly cleaners at the Hampton Inn who followed butterfly angels to the trailer park where the Baby Jesus was born.



First Congregational Atlanta Hosts Atlanta Teens

Teens from the Young Family YMCA's Maya Angelou Teen Center were

invited to attend First Church for Sunday School Christmas Play by Walter and Sonjia Young. The youth were treated to lunch at the Juke Joint, owned by Mr. Terry Harps. First Church member Michael Varzi supported the youth's holiday experience with a gift card for each participant. Each of these youth are a part of Maya Angelou Teen Center program that supports at-risk youth with various cultural activities and support services.



Training and Learning Opportunities

Migration and Border Crossings Seminar

Columbia Theological Seminary and Emory University's Center for the Study of Law and Religion are excited to co-host an important multidisciplinary conference entitled "Migration and Border Crossings." It will be held February 7-9, 2019 at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

The conference will bring together theologians, legal scholars, artists and leaders of faith communities to explore the causes, processes and effects of global migration. The conference presenters are by all accounts top of the line, diverse in all ways and experts in various parts of the issues of migration and border issues. It will feature keynote addresses by former Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, and Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Emilie Townes, as well as several plenary addresses and workshops that will offer insights and tools for addressing immigration related issues. Learn

more on the [CTS website](#).

Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

You are invited to attend *Clergy Clinic for Family Emotional Process*, an interdenominational workshop sponsored by the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and hosted by St. Andrew's UMC in Charlotte, NC. The dates for this outstanding training event are March 11-13, June 3-5, and September 9-11, 2019. Tuition for the entire nine-day series is \$1400 for those who register by January 21, 2019. For complete details, please visit <https://lmpeacecenter.org/events-page/clergy-clinic/>. To register online, go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3780136>.

Conference Calendar

Commission on Ministry Meeting

January 3, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST
Online Virtual Meeting

Annual Meeting Planning Session

January 8, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm EST
Online Virtual Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST
Online Virtual Meeting

Winter Youth Retreat

January 18, 2019 - January 20, 2019
Blowing Rock Conference Center

Members-in-Discernment Retreat

January 18, 2019 @ 12:00 pm - January 19, 2019 @ 4:00 pm EST
Atlanta, GA

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